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10TH DISTRICT, NEW JERSEY

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Congress of the United States
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April 29, 2022

The Honorable Rosa L. DeLauro
Chairwoman
Committee on Appropriations
H-307 The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Kay Granger
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
1036 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chair DeLauro and Ranking Member Granger:

I am requesting funding for the Urban Rooftop Farming Stormwater Management System in fiscal year 2023. The entity to receive funding for this project is the County of Essex, NJ, located at Hall of Records, Room 405, Newark, NJ 07102. The funding would be used to design, build and operate a commercial grade rooftop farm that will produce blueberries to USDA organic standards using a stormwater capture system for irrigation and a patented lightweight growing medium that will result in crops that can be sold through local restaurants and markets, thereby addressing food scarcity. This proof of concept will not only demonstrate how an urban farm can be built on existing structures in an urban area without major structural modifications, it will also do so in a way that captures almost all stormwater and filter it on-site through processes like evaporation and redistribution as grey water. This new, green detention system will almost eliminate the need for stormwater transportation and reduce levels of toxic pollutants, such as lead, zinc, pyrene, chrysene, and other nonpoint contaminants that enter the grounds and sewage systems, seeping into nearby waterways and vegetation as they travel through the overflowing rainfall. This project will also address the urban heat island effect, which results from overbuilding in urban places.

I certify that neither I nor my immediate family has any financial interest in this project.

Sincerely,



Donald M. Payne, Jr.

Member of Congress